

Florin Japanese American Citizens League
Oral History Project
California Civil Liberties Public Education Program Grant

Oral History Interview
with
MARION YAMABE WAKE

May 25, 2000
San Francisco, California

By
Taeko Joanne Ono Iritani

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*Florin JACL Oral History Project
Japanese American Citizens League, Florin Chapter
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MISSION STATEMENT

To collect and preserve the historical record of the multigenerational experience of Japanese Americans and others who befriended them. The books produced will enhance the California State University, Sacramento/Japanese American Archival Collection (CSUS/JAAC) housed in the CSUS Archives for study, research, teaching and exhibition. This unique collection of life histories provides a permanent resource for the use of American and international scholars, researchers and faculty, as well as a lesson for future generations to appreciate the process of protecting and preserving the United States Constitution and America's democratic principles.

PREFACE

The Florin JACL Oral History Project provides completed books and tapes of Oral Histories presented to the interviewed subjects, to the California State University, Sacramento/Japanese American Archival Collection (CSUS/JAAC), and to the Florin JACL Chapter. Copyright is held by the Florin JACL Chapter and California State University, Sacramento. Photocopying is limited to a maximum of 20 pages per volume.

This project will continue the mission of the Florin JACL Oral History Project which began in 1987 and recognized the necessity of interviewing Japanese Americans: "We have conducted these interviews with feelings of urgency. If we are to come away with lessons from this historic tragedy, we must listen to and become acquainted with the people who were there. Many of these historians are in their seventies, eighties and nineties. We are grateful that they were willing to share their experiences and to answer our questions with openness and thoughtfulness." This same urgency to conduct interviews was felt by the North Central Valley JACL Chapters of French Camp, Lodi, Placer County, and Stockton in 1997-98 as a consortium joining the Florin Chapter in obtaining funding from the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF). And now, again under the Florin Chapter banner, more life histories will be told with the generous funding from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program (CCLPEP).

The Oral Histories in the Japanese American Archival Collection relate the personal stories of the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal and internment of American citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry. There is a wide variety of interviews of former internees, military personnel, people who befriended the Japanese Americans, Caucasians who worked in the internment camps and others, whose stories will serve to inform the public of the fundamental injustice of the government's action in the detention of the Japanese aliens and "non-aliens" (the government's designation of U.S. citizens), so that the causes and circumstances of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood.

The population of those who lived through the World War II years is rapidly diminishing, and in a few years, will altogether vanish. Their stories must be preserved for the historians and researchers today and in the future.

INTERVIEW HISTORY

INTERVIEWER

Taeko Joanne Ono Iritani is a Florin JACL member, President in 1996-97, Education Chair, and retired special education teacher with a master's degree from California State University, Bakersfield.

INTERVIEW TIME AND PLACE

Lloyd Wake was interviewed at the Miyako Hotel San Francisco
April 27, 2000

Marion Wake was interviewed at their home in San Francisco
May 25, 2000

TRANSCRIBING AND EDITING

Transcribing and word processing by Taeko Joanne Iritani
Editing of original manuscript by Lloyd and Marion Wake

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs were supplied by Lloyd and Marion Wake

TAPES AND INTERVIEW RECORDS

Copies of the bound transcript and the tapes will be kept by the Florin Japanese American Citizens League and in the University Archives at the Library, California State University, Sacramento, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, California 95819.

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARIES

Rev. Lloyd Wake and his wife Marion were interviewed because they are active members of the Japanese American community in the Bay Area.

REV. LLOYD WAKE

Lloyd Wake was born on January 12, 1922 in Reedley, California. The midwife at the birth was his father. His parents Yenpei and Hisayo Wake came to America from Okayama, Japan, had eight children and farmed in Reedley and Dinuba. With the restrictions imposed by the California Alien Land Law, the farms in Reedley and Dinuba were purchased using his brother's name, the eldest child of the family. Lloyd's youth was centered around work on the farm, Sunday School with its Mennonite Brethren teachers, public schools and sports. In high school it was basketball and baseball. After graduation from high school, he worked on the farm and played on the Nisei baseball team in Reedley.

World War II began in December 1941. With the new wartime restrictions of curfews and travel, Lloyd's two eldest sisters who were married in the Bay Area moved to the large family home in Dinuba. The eldest sister and her husband had an arts and antique business in San Francisco. Lloyd helped move the art goods into big steel lockers and onto a moving van to store in their Dinuba house. Lloyd's father arranged for a Mennonite Brethren couple to care for the farm and live in the house while the family went to Camp Three at Poston, Arizona relocation center. Lloyd fondly remembers his activities with the Poston Christian Church. With the influence of two friends who were students planning to enter the ministry, Lloyd enrolled at Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. This was his first experience being away on his own and on a college campus.

While attending college, Lloyd met Marion Yamabe. They were engaged and married in Los Angeles after her graduation from Asbury. Lloyd was enrolled in the American Baptist Seminary of the West located in Berkeley, California. He began work as a student pastor at the Berkeley Methodist Church, graduated from the Baptist seminary and did graduate work at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. He was ordained in 1950 and appointed pastor of the Pine Methodist Church in San Francisco.

Lloyd described problems encountered locating property when Pine church decided to move to the Richmond District; his experiences on the Glide Board of Trustees, and appointment as Minister of Congregational Life on the Glide Church staff. His activities during this time included supervising thirty or forty Conscientious Objectors during the Vietnam War era; being elected to the Methodist Church General Conference three times; supporting the anti-apartheid struggle in Africa at a UC Berkeley rally; being

involved with his son Steve with the Friends of the Filipino People with the anti-Ferdinand Marcos sit-in at the Philippine Consulate, arrest, trial and doing community service. He also described the work with the Asian American Caucus in having Wilbur Choy elected Bishop in 1976. Lloyd removed himself as a candidate for Bishop although he had been selected by the Caucus. He felt that it was too difficult for the voting members to support a person from Glide Church which was controversial at that time and that he had conducted a gay wedding which was then called a covenant service. Lloyd now manages the endowment fund of the National Federation of Asian American United Methodists.

MARION YAMABE WAKE

Marion Yamabe was born to Umeshichi (Okada) Yamabe and Toku Yamada Yamabe who were from Hiroshima, Japan. Marion described the childhood of her parents in Japan, how they had met in high school and fallen in love, how they were married in a proxy ceremony, she at her husband's family home, and he in Hollywood, California where he was a cook for Cecil B. De Mille. After her arrival to America, a formal Buddhist ceremony was held.

Marion's father was born in 1888, had come from Japan as a student and served in the U.S. Coast Guard. He was among the veterans who obtained United States citizenship granted with the 1935 Nye-Lee bill to about 500 Asians, mostly of Japanese ancestry, who had served honorably with the U.S. armed forces during World War I. He had various jobs before becoming the cook for De Mille.

Elder brother Jack was born in 1921, Marion in 1926, and Bobby in 1936. After her father left his work with De Mille, he opened various businesses which were unsuccessful. Marion described the very poor living conditions, the homes that were shacks, and the lack of plumbing and electricity. However, she fondly recalls the fun activities of her childhood in the Santa Monica canyon, on its hills and in the surf. There was also a negative experience with her first grade teacher who said, "What's the matter with these Japs, don't they teach their kids nursery rhymes?"

While living in Santa Monica, the family attended the Free Methodist Church. The family then moved to Redondo Beach and at that time, Marion's mother became ill with dropsy. Her mother was hospitalized and died of cancer when Marion was thirteen. This entire experience of her mother's illness and death were extremely difficult for Marion. Her younger brother was only three, so she became his caretaker.

World War II began and the family was to go to Santa Anita Racetrack Assembly Center. Younger brother Bobby had the chicken pox so the Los Angeles County Hospital ambulance came to transport him to the hospital on

departure day. The attendants grudgingly permitted Marion to accompany the crying Bobby to the hospital.

After a few weeks, their father drove the family in their car to Santa Anita and the family began life in the horse stable. Marion recalls the unsanitary condition and how she and her brother became sick in the stable. Once when moving her wooden cot, there were holes left where horse manure could be seen and smelled. The smell was overwhelming so she quickly put the cot back. Her father was assistant food director in Santa Anita and Rohwer, Arkansas Relocation Center. They left in May, 1943 to the Chicago area. Marion and Bobby attended various schools as their father moved to various jobs. She graduated from Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky in 1948, worked at the Ellis Community Center in Chicago, married Lloyd in Los Angeles with her former Santa Monica pastor and Lloyd's brother-in-law officiating.

Marion and Lloyd lived in Berkeley while he was a seminary student and she worked at the YMCA in San Francisco. They moved to San Francisco when he was appointed pastor of the Pine Church. They had four children who are now grown. She described the experience of second child Wes with the surgery of a tumor and removal of the bone on his neck. How difficult this time must have been for this young family.

Marion completed requirements for a teaching credential at San Francisco State University. Lloyd discouraged her working, so Marion found work as a substitute teacher and then worked at a school for severely disturbed children at Langley Porter Hospital children's program. She recruited volunteers for one-to-one everyday work from many local colleges and universities. She was supervising them when she was just learning herself. She had to quit when the physical abuse from kicking, running, restraining, etc. was too much for her body. Marion then received her master in family counseling and served her internship at a mental health center. She worked with others to see that the staff was not all white. She had a secondary internship at a high school and a half time job as a counselor at an elementary school.

Marion went through an intense training with the Shanti program to learn more on death and dying. Her last position was at an elementary school doing play therapy, art therapy and family therapy. She made home visits to crowded, often filthy tenderloin homes of prostitutes and other horrible situations.

In their retirement, Lloyd and Marion have conducted workshops together on various subjects in the Japanese American communities in the Bay Area. Marion has been a reader/reviewer for the Gustavus Myers Human Rights Center located at Boston University. Because she must use a walker or wheelchair her activities have been greatly curtailed. She is completely dependent on Lloyd for transportation.

MARION YAMABE WAKE INTERVIEW

Session 1, May 25, 2000

[Tape 1, Side A] 1

Parents--Umeshichi (Okada) Yamabe--Mother Toku Yamada Yamabe--Father's childhood--Mother's childhood--Marriage of parents by proxy in Japan and a Buddhist ceremony in Los Angeles--Father's work for Cecil De Mille--Birth of three children, Jack, Marion and Bobby--Father's various business activities--Attending the Santa Monica Japanese Free Methodist Church--

[Tape 1, Side B] 12

Japanese language school--Mother's illness--Move to a shack in Redondo Beach--Mother hospitalized with dropsy and then cancer--Mother's death when Marion was thirteen--Caretaker of three year old younger brother--World War II began--Father had received his U.S. citizenship in the 1930s after having served in the Coast Guard in World War I--Bobby had chicken pox, so on departure day, an ambulance took a crying Bobby and Marion to the hospital--March 1942, life in Santa Anita Racetrack Assembly Center horse's stable and November in Rohwer, Arkansas Relocation Center--School in Rohwer--

[Tape 2, Side A] 24

Happiest activities in Santa Anita and Rohwer were church-related--Move to Illinois where father had a short-term job at a golf country club--Education in various places as father's job changed--Graduated from high school--Had job painting costume jewelry and worked as housegirl--Attended Asbury College in Kentucky--Graduated in 1948--Met and became engaged to Lloyd Wake--Worked at Ellis Community Center in Chicago--Married Lloyd Wake during his Christmas vacation--Worked at the Buchanan YMCA in San Francisco while living in Berkeley where Lloyd attended seminary--Lloyd was assigned to Pine Church in San Francisco--They had four children--Son Wesley had surgery to remove a tumor and to remove growth of bone in the neck--

[Tape 2, Side B] 36

Obtained teaching credential--Substitute taught--Worked at Langley Porter Hospital program for severely emotionally disturbed children--Recruited volunteers from various colleges to assist with the children--Obtained Masters in Family Counseling--Worked in elementary and high schools--Took sabbatical to learn of death and dying issues--Received Clinical Pastoral Education training--Conducted workshops on various topics for Japanese American community groups--Reader/Reviewer for the Gustavus Myers Human Rights Center at Boston University--Tutoring twice a week--Creating flower arrangements for residence--

[Tape 3, Side A] 48
Children Cathy, Wes, Sandy and Steve and their activities--Worked for
school district twenty years--Physically disabled using a walker or wheel chair

[End of interview]

Marion Wake names list 57

[Session 1, May 25, 2000]

[Begin Tape 1, Side A]

IRITANI: [I am Joanne Iritani of the Florin Oral History Project.] Today is May 25, 2000 and I am doing an oral history interview with Marion Wake in San Francisco at their home. I have already interviewed Lloyd, her husband and now I would like to add her story to Lloyd's story for our book.

I have heard quite a bit about you and your family, but now I want it in your words. And so, would you like to begin as far back as you have memory of what your parents told you about their childhood as well in Japan, if you have any recollection of that kind of story. And of however far back you want to go.

M WAKE: You say you've heard a lot about my family, the Yamabe family?

IRITANI: No, just the Wakes.

M WAKE: Yes, and that's not my family.

IRITANI: No, that's right.

M WAKE: My father was born on June 22nd, 1888 in Hiroshima.

IRITANI: His name is? Your father's name?

M WAKE: Umeshichi. Seventh. [*Ume* are plums, a symbol of good luck.]

IRITANI: Ume-shichi.

M WAKE: Okada.

IRITANI: That was his...?

M WAKE: [His original family name.] I'll explain. Soon after my father's birth his father contracted TB [tuberculosis], so his mother's family sent his father home. It was a very shameful disease then, and sufficient reason for the spouse's family to get rid of the spouse who had TB.

IRITANI: This is your father's wife?

M WAKE: No, his mother's family who made my father's father go back home. My father was never told why his father disappeared. And so throughout his childhood and his adolescence he kept looking for his father. Every time he saw a man who looked as if he might be his father, he wondered if that was his father. My father died not knowing why his father disappeared and for his whole life felt abandoned by him. This probably had a lot to do with his very poor relations with my older brother, who was also the oldest son. And so, Papa's father was sent home. One of his uncles was a medical doctor in their town. My father's half brother, many, many years later took us to my father's real father's home town and we saw the beautiful, large home that he grew up in, which is quite run down, not kept up by that time. Somebody else lived there. We also went *ohakamairi* [visit to the cemetery].

IRITANI: That was which *ken* [prefecture]?

M WAKE: Hiroshima.

IRITANI: Do you know what year he came?

M WAKE: I think right after he graduated high school. So, it must have been 1906. His mother was married to a man who was very cruel to my father. So between feeling as if his real father had abandoned him and his stepfather being very cruel to him his ideas of fatherhood became contorted. His stepfather's name was Yamabe and that was why he had to take on the name Yamabe. He had a younger half brother. His stepfather had a grocery store and a *tofu* [bean curd cake] business, and so my father had to get up early in the morning and help make the *tofu* and then deliver the *tofu* before he went to school. Evidently, he was a star baseball pitcher in high school. And so, throughout his life he was a baseball fan. Wherever he lived he always went to as many ball games as he could.

IRITANI: So, he probably played in high school, which would have been the turn of the century time. Oh, wow.

M WAKE: Yes, it was. High school would be when he was in the 1890s. On our first visit in '72, my uncle also took us to my mother's family gravesite.

IRITANI: And your mother's name is...

M WAKE: Toku Yamada.

IRITANI: Yamada to Yamabe. And she was also...

M WAKE: She was born to a so-called *samurai* [warrior] family in Hiroshima. And I remember her talking about *Onomachi* the name of her city in Hiroshima. My grandmother gave birth to a

dozen children. Eight of whom lived. Four of them were girls, starting with my aunt who eventually came to San Francisco.

For some reason, my grandfather had a very good income. I guess he was a calligrapher and evidently was well paid because my grandmother had several servants and they lived quite luxuriously. We were shown the home that they lived in and when each of the dozen babies was born, she didn't have to do anything for a hundred days but nurse her child. She had so much milk that she always nursed one of the neighbors' children at the same time. But Mama says she herself was always a tomboy, climbing trees and enjoying sports, too. And I guess that's why I get sports from both sides of the family. And so she didn't take, as far as I know, any lessons in dance or flower arrangement or cooking or sewing. She couldn't do any of those things when she was married! [Nor could I when I was married!]

IRITANI: She had servants who would do everything for her.

M WAKE: They did everything for her and so she didn't learn anything. But, she did get sick with something. I don't know what it was. She and Papa had met previously and fallen in love.

IRITANI: Your father went back to Japan then?

M WAKE: No, no. When they were young, they knew each other.

IRITANI: Oh. That's a very different story.

M WAKE: It is. Our family is very different. You know, the Yamabe family is so different from the Wake family in so many ways.

IRITANI: So, your mother and father knew each other in high school?

M WAKE: Yes. And so, they wanted to get married. But my aunt, my mother's oldest sister who had come here, had selected a rich man by those standards, and mother was supposed to marry him, but she refused. And so, she was married by proxy to my father at my father's home. They couldn't take me up there, but Papa's friends pointed to the room where she had her hair fixed and changed into her *kimono* and had the proxy ceremony. Papa's stepfather's grocery store had been renovated. If he had returned to Japan, Papa could have inherited the tofu business and the store and all that. But, he didn't want to, so, everything went to his younger brother. His younger brother sold the business to a worker who had been there for many years. So that worker's wife cooked a really nice lunch for us upstairs. There was a huge, hall upstairs. I guess it was used for a community hall for wedding receptions and things. I met my father's best friend who was the town photographer and I met his next door neighbor lady. It was the funniest feeling because my father had been dead for many years. And he had never been able to go back to Japan to visit. They were so happy to see me, but it made me feel sad, too. We went to his stepfather's family cemetery there.

IRITANI: So, your mother and father were married by proxy in Japan. Where was he, in the meantime? Where was he working?

M WAKE: Let's see at that time, I think he had already started working for Cecil B. De Mille. While De Mille was at home in Hollywood, he

lived in the home, and cooked for them. Cooked all his parties, all the entertaining that De Mille did at home.

IRITANI: That was right in the Hollywood area?

M WAKE: Yes. Mr. and Mrs. De Mille gave us a beautiful pure silver covered vegetable bowl for our wedding. Whenever he traveled in Europe or South America or Mexico, wherever, my father accompanied him. And so, in De Mille's biography he's mentioned. Once when he was very ill in Europe, he credited my father for saving his life and bringing him back to health.

IRITANI: After your father came over here, he basically lived in the Los Angeles area?

M WAKE: He must have had a stint in the U.S. Coast Guard before that. And that's why he was a World War I American veteran. He got his citizenship from that.

IRITANI: Oh, he did?

M WAKE: He came over as a student because he did very well in school. He wanted to study, but he also had to make a living. He was a school boy and it was too hard, so he worked on the railroads for a while. And when that work slowed down, he went to Seattle and got a job as a dishwasher. While he was dish washing, he watched the cooks very carefully and the next time he applied for a job, he applied for a job as a cook. So he worked as a cook and chef for the rest of his life. He did most of the cooking at home, too. He loved to cook. My mother never learned--never had any motivation to learn. Actually, she had a lot of free time. Her life

as an Issei woman was very different from most Issei women, except for a few years there where after my older brother was born, she really wanted my father to be at home. Financially, it was a big disaster after that. Because then he bought a grocery store and we were in the midst of the depression by that time. He couldn't make a go of the grocery store. There's one story that my older brother Jack remembers because he was five years older than I.

IRITANI: Do you want to, at this point, just go ahead and name all your siblings?

M WAKE: There's just one other brother, Bobby. He is still called Bobby.

IRITANI: And then you?

M WAKE: No, I'm in the middle. In between them. Jack was born in 1921 and then Bobby wasn't born until 1936, because he's ten years younger than I am.

IRITANI: So, you were born in?

M WAKE: '26. Jack said he was really worried about me because my mother had to work downstairs in the grocery store and I was since infancy left upstairs in the crib. I guess I've been told that so often that I picture myself shaking the can of Johnson Baby Powder and emptying it all over the floor, standing up in the crib. That's the only anecdote from the grocery store.

M WAKE: When my mother came to America, my parents were married by a Buddhist priest in a formal marriage ceremony. By a real coincidence, when Lloyd told his mother he wanted to marry me,

that priest had been transferred to Fresno. She had written to Japan to find out my whole family history. They told her the priest was in Fresno. So she went to see the priest. She wouldn't give her consent until she talked to the priest.

Then when my mother insisted that he be at home, my father quit his job with De Mille. Then he bought a grocery store.

IRITANI: You said it was a disaster, how long?

M WAKE: Well, I'll lead into that. He couldn't make it, so he bought a Chinese restaurant. And I don't remember any customers ever coming. People in that neighborhood of West Los Angeles could not afford to eat out. All I remember is my brother and I used to play at the entrance way and he taught me how to play marbles and spinning tops. I learned all the boys' games from him. On the first day of kindergarten I cried the whole morning. So, the teacher said, "Take her home." And my mother thought it was forever, so I didn't finish kindergarten. So, then anyway, the Chinese restaurant was a disaster. I guess De Mille had already hired somebody else and he got a job with another film director called Gibbons. I don't even know what his first name was, but he lived on the hill south of Santa Monica Canyon. My father and mother were both hired to work for the Gibbons family. That was good because Mr. Gibbons didn't travel much, but then Mr. Gibbons got married and he moved into his new wife's home and she had her whole staff of servants. My parents were jobless, so, they moved to a shack down in the Santa Monica Canyon. At

that time, there were only two Japanese families and several Mexican families. There was a stream that ran through the canyon where we used to have our Japanese school picnics. [The beach was level with the canyon. We walked to it and played in the waves.]¹ I loved it down there. [It was an idyllic childhood for I was not aware that we were poor. My parents were very happy people with friends who came to play cards. We participated in the Mexican fiestas.]²

IRITANI: So, that was your real growing-up years.

M WAKE: Yes. But, again, there were only boys to play with. My brother had older friends by that time. The Japanese family had three boys and they got me into lots of trouble. We set a field on fire once. Later we dug a deep hole and just sat in the hole for the longest time. We had no idea what time it was and when I got home it was dark. That was the only spanking I remember from my father. I was my father's favorite. And my older brother really resented that.

IRITANI: Sibling rivalry.

M WAKE: My older brother was my mother's favorite. They had a great relationship and so, her early death was devastating to him. But, anyway, I had a lot of fun in the canyon. My brother and I and

¹ Marion Wake added the preceding bracketed material during her review of the draft transcript.

² Marion Wake added the preceding bracketed material during her review of the draft transcript.

M WAKE: friends used to go climbing up the steep north side of the canyon. There was a long swinging ladder. We couldn't even see where it was connected up there. We were just swinging on that. When we were hiking, one slip and we'd go down to the bottom of the canyon. There was an old man who lived by the stream in a trailer. He smoked. He had us picking up cigarette stubs and paid us a few pennies. I don't know how much, but he would pay us.

[The only experience that spoiled my life was having to start first grade in a two-room schoolhouse. First through third grade was in one room.]³ The teacher very soon after school started, said, "I want you to choose a nursery rhyme to recite for parents' night." I didn't even know what a nursery rhyme was. And so she said, "What's the matter with these Japs, don't they teach their kids nursery rhymes?" That was the first vivid memory. She assigned me "Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow." I've hated that nursery rhyme ever since. Since I completed both the first and second grade work daily, they skipped me a grade--to the third grade. One really happy memory I have is, I also got to go in the fourth-sixth grade room for harmonica practice. We had a harmonica band and got to go up to West L. A. to play on the radio. That was the highlight of that school.

³ Marion Wake added the preceding bracketed material during her review of the draft transcript.

M WAKE: In the meantime, my father had not found a job and so we were very, very poor. Finally, he trained to be a chiropractor and rented a big beautiful house on Euclid Avenue in Santa Monica proper. He put a sign out, "Professor Frank, [that's what De Mille called him] Yamabe" and he took patients upstairs in this huge house. He got the house all furnished on credit, even a piano, because my mother wanted me to learn how to play the piano. So, he did very well for a while. And then, somehow he lost his "magic". So he went to Rev. Baba, because he had heard how Rev. Baba healed people and he wanted to learn what his secret was. But while talking with him, he was converted to be a Christian. All the way home he was worried about how in the world is he going to break this news to his wife, my mother, because both of their families thought the worst things about Christians. When he got home and told my mother, she said, "One of the ladies in the Santa Monica Japanese Free Methodist Church, had been talking with her, and she decided she would like to be a Christian. And so, they had a wonderful baptismal service in our living room with friends present. From then on, we went to the Free Methodist camp meetings. Since Papa was a cook, we got free lodging near the dining hall.

There was a Japanese family that lived on the corner. The father ran the produce department of several chain stores. They were very wealthy and they could well afford that home. We couldn't afford it, but for business reasons we had to have a nice home. The daughter asked me if I would like to go to Sunday

school. And that was how I discovered the Santa Monica Free Methodist Church. And so, I'd wear my best clothes every Sunday morning and walk with her all the way to the Free Methodist Church. And then later on, my parents joined the church.

[End Tape 1, Side A]

[Begin Tape 1, Side B]

IRITANI: Then at what point did you start to take Japanese school? Japanese language school?

M WAKE: So, then after we moved up to Santa Monica proper and my father's chiropractic business was going well, then we could afford to go to Japanese school.

IRITANI: You were in what grade by then?

M WAKE: Then I was in fourth grade because I skipped a grade.

IRITANI: Where did you go for the Japanese language school? Was it a community group? Community or church related group?

M WAKE: No, it wasn't church related. It was definitely community. And I remember singing *Kimigayo* [the national anthem of Japan] very often and all that kind of thing. My *sensei* [teacher] was put in [Santa Fe] New Mexico camp [during World War II]. But those two experiences, being among all Japanese at church and in Japanese School were the happiest part of my childhood because in "American" schools, we called it, we were the only Japanese and I didn't feel included. So then the chiropractic business was not going, so we had to move out and sell much of our furniture

and move to a really tiny little house. I guess in celebration of becoming Christian, my mother conceived my brother. And that was the beginning of the downfall of her health. My aunt here in San Francisco has always blamed my father. First the fact that my mother married somebody other than the one she had chosen. And then when my mother became sickly and died....

IRITANI: And so she died while you were still in grade school?

M WAKE: No, high school. I'm getting her death way ahead of time. My brother was born in the little house...

IRITANI: Ten years after you?

M WAKE: Ten years after me. And so, because she was not well, Jack and I ended up taking care of him much of the time. [The first time our parents left baby Bobby at home with us, Jack needed to run an errand. After he left the house, I discovered that Bobby had soiled. I panicked and ran up the street after Jack. He and I used to do the wash together. We were very close until we moved to Redondo Beach.]⁴

Papa got a job with Helm's Bakery, but then that job ended. Then we had to move to another really poor area of the city and he just couldn't find a job. By that time, Rev. Kashitani, our pastor at the Santa Monica church, found a real, old shack in Redondo Beach where we could live and where my father could develop a small area of land growing flowers and vegetables and

⁴Marion Wake added the preceding bracketed material during her review of the draft transcript.

animals. And so that's what we did. My brother had finished his junior year in high school and it was really hard for him to leave his friends. That was a very hard time for my older brother and very hard for all of us because we had at first no running water even. And we used an outhouse for the first time. It was just a little shack with very thin cardboard partitions between three rooms.

IRITANI: So, your brother had to transfer to another high school then?

M WAKE: He got sick because it was emotionally too much of an adjustment. Also, Santa Monica High was a very easy school and Redondo High had the highest academic standards in the state at that time. And so, it was too much of an adjustment for him to make. So, he ended up being sick at home for one semester. When he graduated, he really wanted to go on to college, but there was no way that we could afford it because we needed his income to help us. [Happily, many years later because of his military service in MIS (Military Intelligence Service), the GI Bill sent him to USC and he became a high school and then community college teacher.]⁵

My father grew flowers but not enough to take to flower mart. We used to go up on the highway and try to sell. Or we'd go door-to-door. My mother would have to do the wash and scrubbing outside, and heat the water over fire. My father did

⁵Marion Wake added the preceding bracketed material during her review of the draft transcript.

build a Japanese *ofuro* [bath house] and we really enjoyed that.

But, we had to rinse the clothes out in the cold water. We had no gas or electricity. Those years were kind of the typical Issei-Nisei.

IRITANI: And by then she did have your younger brother and her health was not good either, so it might be into the late 1930s already.

M WAKE: Right. I was in sixth grade when we moved there. Again, sports and academics were my enjoyment. The junior high was an excellent school. And then I started high school. By that time, the landlord who was a Japanese man who ran a restaurant in Little Tokyo in L.A., kicked us out when he saw the possibilities of the property. My father had developed it into a really nice place to live. And we had to leave that *ofuro*. [We moved to another house that did have electricity and gas, but only a bathtub in a shed that we had to bail water and fill each night. My father also had to put up another outhouse.]⁶

IRITANI: Was that also in Redondo, still? So, you didn't have to change schools.

M WAKE: The only job Jack could find was at a vegetable stand. So then, we had all these medical bills which were piling up for my mother. Her stomach really expanded and we found out she had dropsy. So the Japanese doctor in Torrance, punched a hole in her abdomen and released all the fluid, but it filled up again. He had to hospitalize her in L.A. General county hospital. Those

⁶Marion Wake added the preceding bracketed material during her review of the draft transcript.

M WAKE: hospital visits were horrible. I remember the first hospital visit we went, the doctor told us that when they examined my mother they found cancer had spread all over her body. I can still remember the very spot where the doctor told my father. She was in a huge ward really suffering. I remember we used to cook eucalyptus leaves. Somebody told us to boil eucalyptus leaves for an hour and she would good naturedly drink it all. But it didn't help. One day we went to visit her and she wasn't there. We found out that without our permission they had moved her to a nursing home. When we went to see her, we opened the front door and we could hear a woman screaming. It was my mother! She was in such pain and they were doing nothing about relieving her pain. By that time, my aunt had come from Stockton to help us. I hated her. She was so mean. Nothing I did was right. And she kept saying all these awful things about my father. And then on the other hand my father got up at the break of day to boil hot water and do the laundry because I had to go to school and I had been up 'til late doing homework. And she says, "Why do you let your father do the laundry? You should be doing the laundry." And so having her there was... we'd rather not have had her there. I remember complaining to my mother once. And she said, "Well, we just have to put up with her." I don't remember my mother ever complaining to me about the pain she was going through or anything about how awful it was to be in the hospital. After that nursing home

experience, my aunt said, "No way am I going to allow you to keep her here." We're putting her in the Japanese Hospital. Do you remember Rev. Mas Toyotome?

IRITANI: Yes.

M WAKE: His mother was a nurse, a nurse's aide there. And she was taking care of my mother. I just envision her--this tiny little lady with a halo of pure white hair--an angel of mercy. It was such a contrast from the county hospital and the nursing home. My father always gave Mama a massage. I hadn't seen her body for a long time. It was all skin and bones. Papa's tears fell on her back and she said, "Don't cry. Have faith in God." When we turned her over, she started reaching out, so I took her hand. I guess she was "out" of it by that time. And then she died soon after that. I just remember Jack...

IRITANI: How old were you at that time?

M WAKE: I was thirteen. And I still remember Jack who wouldn't even come near the bed. He was feeling totally dejected. My poor little brother, he could never come to see her in the hospital. They wouldn't allow him in the hospital. So, the last time he saw her alive was when she left for the hospital. He couldn't even come when she was dying. And so we had to go to the car and tell him that Mama had died. Then we went to the local Japanese Free Methodist minister's home to report to him. He and his wife were just so cold. It was incredible. No comfort to us. And so we went home and had a funeral.

IRITANI: The funeral without the minister?

M WAKE: No, no. Our own minister officiated. The one who helped us find the house in Redondo Beach, but not our minister at that time. At the funeral home in L.A., they fixed her up and she looked awful. She just looked horrible. They put so much make-up on her, my little brother was just shocked. When my father died later on, he refused to view the body. Everybody thought that was really awful, but after his experience with my dead mother, he couldn't go through that again. So, Bobby is the one who has suffered the most because he really didn't know what it is like to have a healthy mother. His wife tells me everytime his mother is mentioned, he breaks down in tears--even at our 50th anniversary party. All of Lloyd's family had developed a silly skit about Lloyd. It was a long, long thing. My older brother in L.A., hasn't been able to travel at all, so on my side of the family, my younger brother was the only one there with his wife and three children. And so, he was supposed to say something, but he just couldn't say anything. He just started crying right away. He said he owed everything to me, because my mother had died.

IRITANI: You were his mother.

M WAKE: I was a lousy mother, in my teenage years.

IRITANI: But still, you were his support.

M WAKE: Yes.

IRITANI: You really had some burdens to bear as a young girl.

M WAKE: So, anyway, we were all ready to go to camp. I had to go around to all my teachers for my grades and they were all kind and gave me straight A's. And we went into Santa Anita [Racetrack Assembly Center, a temporary detention center for persons of Japanese ancestry].

IRITANI: You were living in Redondo at the time?

M WAKE: Yes.

IRITANI: Where were you at the time [the bombing of] Pearl Harbor occurred? In December of '41?

M WAKE: We were there in Redondo.

IRITANI: Do you remember what that time was like for you?

M WAKE: Well, by that time we were used to hearing airplanes over us all the time and I remember thinking, "Well, if we get bombed, we get bombed." But anyway, what I vividly remember is my father went to a JACL meeting in Torrance, I think. He came home so-o upset because they voted to cooperate, going to camp. You know being a World War I veteran Papa was an ardent American Legionnaire. [When Pearl Harbor occurred, he had told us not to worry because we were all citizens. During World War I, he had had to pick up German aliens who were then separated from their families. If Mama had been alive we would have been separated, he thought!]⁷

IRITANI: Oh, really?

⁷Marion Wake added the preceding bracketed material during her review of the draft transcript.

M WAKE: Which is so atypical, too.

IRITANI: That's right.

M WAKE: But, he was very proud of being an American war veteran.

IRITANI: He was among those who received his naturalization?

M WAKE: Yes.

IRITANI: In the 1930s.

M WAKE: So, I guess I was coping more with what we had to do everyday to get ready to go. [I found out from cousins in Japan that my father had sent all he could for they had nothing after the war.]⁸ By the time we left for Santa Anita, we had so little to sell. And because we lived out in the sticks, they said we could drive our cars in. [The car disappeared and we were never compensated.] In the meantime, my little brother got chicken pox. The time for our departure had come and my father went out to get special permission from some office. He did get special permission for us to stay for a couple of more weeks. But, in the meantime, the L.A. County Hospital ambulance came. Anybody that was sick on departure day had to go to L.A. County Hospital. My little brother who was just five cried and cried so I begged them to let me go with him. And so, they grudgingly wrapped a white sheet around me and let me get on the ambulance.

IRITANI: So, they came to your house to collect him.

⁸Marion Wake added the preceding bracketed material during her review of the draft transcript.

M WAKE: Yes, to collect him. And so, I hurriedly left a sign on the front door saying we were in the C.D., the children's department, in pediatrics. And my father interpreted it as the crazy department. [Laughter] But, anyway he finally found us at the hospital. They wouldn't let me go to where my brother was. You know, I was already fifteen. They could have let me go, and we all wouldn't have had to listen to him cry. They wouldn't let me in. Finally Papa came and we went home, and went to camp two weeks later. But in the meantime my older brother went on with his friends and so our I.D. [family identification] numbers became different. When it came time to go to relocation center, his I.D. number was different so there was a big hassle to change his to ours. I guess because we had never really lived on a farm or under really unsanitary conditions my brother and I got sick in the stable. Some of the stables were cleaned out, swept out at least.

IRITANI: From what I've heard, they swept it, but...

M WAKE: No, what appeared to us was they just poured the asphalt over the horse poop. I wanted to move my wooden cot, and when I lifted it up, in the holes there was all this horse manure. And the smell was overwhelming, so I quickly put it back. Because my father was bilingual, and had had many years of experience as a cook and chef, they made him the assistant to the administrator of the food program. And you know, we had 20,000 people in Santa Anita, so he was very busy. He was put to work

M WAKE: immediately, so my little brother and I were on our own. We didn't know where the mess hall was, where to get our meals, we didn't know anything. We had to find everything ourselves. I remember all the long lines getting to everything. Obviously, no school was being started for us, and so the college graduates and other dedicated young people started a wonderful school from kindergarten through high school. The little kids were inside under the grandstand. I was so grateful there was a place for my little brother to go where he didn't have to tag around with me. He had to go with me to do the wash, you know, everything. And then I got to go upstairs in the grandstand for the classes. The best teachers. It was the best teaching I ever had. But then we started noticing they were putting up nets in the grandstand and we started seeing people weaving burlap strips into the nets. Soon after that everybody sixteen and over were drafted to work. I've never seen anything made of the illegality of doing that. I don't know why anyone hasn't. I've never thought of leading a crusade on that.

IRITANI: Were you one of those?

M WAKE: No, because I was fifteen, I didn't have to work on those nets. So, then most of the students and almost all of the teachers were drafted. Some of the disabled teachers continued for a while, but it didn't work.

IRITANI: So, the schools were started and had to be dropped.

M WAKE: [My happiest times were with all my friends in the Holiness Association--fellow Sunday School teachers and choir members from the Free Methodist and Holiness churches.]⁹ We were in Santa Anita until November. We'd gone in March because we had just started the new semester. School in Rohwer didn't start until November. All we had was a bench, benches we were sitting on. We had to write, squatted on the floor and wrote on the bench.

IRITANI: Were you considered already a junior?

M WAKE: Yes, that was a big problem. In order to get credit for my sophomore year, I had to take the second year of every class I had in my sophomore year. So, I had to take the second year of algebra. There were just two of us girls in that class.

IRITANI: And all boys.

M WAKE: Yes. They were all pretty sharp and they thought they were great, but we both did pretty well. We had a really excellent teacher. A young, white woman. She was very good. My father immediately became the assistant food director there. Rohwer was really a kind of a blah time. The only highlight was Rev. Harper Sakauye.

IRITANI: Oh, Harper was there.

M WAKE: Yes. He recognized me from Santa Anita.

⁹ Marion Wake added the preceding bracketed material during her review of the draft transcript.

[End Tape I, Side B]

[Begin Tape 2, Side A]

IRITANI: We'll continue our interview with Marion. Would you like to describe any other activity you were involved in in Rohwer? You mentioned meeting Harper Sakauye.

M WAKE: And both in Santa Anita and in Rohwer the happiest part of my week was when I was at the church. In all the church activities, teaching Sunday school, the young people's meetings, the Bible studies and prayer meetings, and services and choir practice. Harper, being the only Nisei minister, worked like a dog. And he wasn't, because of his personality, he wasn't appreciated too much. One night we had heard a banging on our door in the middle of the night, and the block manager had come after my father to help him calm Harper's roommate down. He lived in the next barrack. His roommate had gone berserk and was chasing after Harper in that tiny little unit with a knife. And so, they finally restrained the roommate and got him to the jail, I guess. Anyway, Rohwer was not a very happy place to be. Pretty soon, we noticed that my younger brother who was six at that time, a group of his friends had a gang leader about eight or ten years old who was getting them into bits of trouble. So, my father decided since he qualified as a citizen, it was time for us to leave camp. My older brother left for Chicago already before that.

IRITANI: Your older brother.

M WAKE: Yes. My older brother. So, we decided to leave for Chicago, also.

M WAKE: My father took a whole kitchen and dining room crew with him. They were going to work in a golf country club and my father was the chef. He took a second cook and two salad makers and a whole crew of waiters and I became the glass washer and the locker room girl.

IRITANI: Was that in Chicago?

M WAKE: No, it was thirty miles due south of Chicago.

IRITANI: And what town was that?

M WAKE: Flossmoor, Illinois, near Chicago Heights. We came out in May. They only had one more week of school in Chicago Heights, the high school where I inquired. And so, he said, "Well, it's no use for you to come to school for just the week." And so, since Rohwer had only started in November, I wrote to my principal and he let me finish my junior year by correspondence. So, I had to figure out the last part of my second year Algebra on my own. That was the hardest, but I managed to do it. The principal of the Chicago Heights High School had taught in Idaho and he had come to know Japanese people, so he took a special interest in me and supervised my finals. I did quite well.

IRITANI: Idaho meaning, not Minidoka, but one of the towns in Idaho.

M WAKE: Evidently he had had Japanese students before coming to Chicago Heights. So, all summer I was working at two jobs, plus doing all my correspondence work. And then what was a shock was that at the end of the summer, the boss said, "Okay, you can go." The job that we thought was a year-around, we should have known

better. But in Chicago, it snows during the winter. Golf country clubs close.

IRITANI: Everyone working for the golf outfit didn't have a winter job.

M WAKE: So, then, we ended up in Chicago in September, jobless, homeless, and hopeless.

IRITANI: 1943.

M WAKE: Yes, but, we found an old house on the north side to rent. And then I registered my little brother. He'd started kindergarten in Redondo, then in Santa Anita, and then at Rohwer, and then in Flossmoor, and then in Chicago, and then my father found a job in Naperville which is thirty miles southwest of Chicago at a TB [tuberculosis] sanatorium. And so, my brother went to that elementary school and then when he left that job, Bobby went to school in Chicago near 47th Avenue, then we moved to 63rd Avenue and then he moved to Wisconsin, and then he moved to Greenville, Illinois and back to Wisconsin. And so, he went to ten elementary schools. My brother felt he had such a poor basic background in education, that he put all of his kids through Lutheran schools. My youngest nephew is teaching now at his old Lutheran school in the Richmond District. So then, we moved to Naperville and that was, in many ways, a really solace for us because they had many Germans who had suffered during World War I. A former missionary to Japan registered us in school. And the minister of a church entertained us and offered to loan my little brother a horn because he wanted to learn to

M WAKE: play the horn in the band. And I resumed piano lessons. When I had taken piano lessons as a child, I hated it, and I never practiced. Finally one day, I hadn't practiced and I was supposed to play a piece called "The Wind" and I couldn't play it so I started crying. So my mother let me quit. But then in high school, I resumed. I was never good, but I still practiced every night. And now I play at night for my own enjoyment. Anyway, my civics teacher/counselor was very instrumental in influencing me because she really "pumped me up" and made me feel like I was really great and I should go to college. I think my becoming teacher/counselor had a lot to do with...

IRITANI: Was that the first time that you really had that encouragement?

M WAKE: Yes.

IRITANI: First time. And you were a senior in high school.

M WAKE: And another thing that really bolstered my ego. I remember now in elementary school when we had to give oral reports, I was so-o nervous and I'd get up there and then I'd forget everything that I had to say. In Japanese school I was such an extrovert. My girl friend and I loved to volunteer to do Japanese dances and things. I was a totally different personality. But, in American school, I was just a meek little, quiet little girl and just stuck to my studies, but I couldn't give oral reports. In Naperville however, various organizations asked me to tell them about camp, so at the end of a presentation to a big organization that all the girls in high school belonged to, Girl Reserves, a girl raised her hand, and she

M WAKE: said, "Did you know that Pearl Harbor was going to happen?" And I flipped out my answer, "No, did you?" [Laughter] And I got a big laugh from that. There was a college in town, North Central College, where I went as a freshman. During my senior year in high school and first year of college, I worked at the sanatorium in the nurse's dining room on weekends serving meals to nurses and weighing the food for the diabetics. One of the diabetic patients called me to his room once. He was a doctor. And he said, "I think you should become a dietitian. I thought, "Oh, no, I had no interest in becoming a dietitian." But, at least he sees some possibilities in me. So, that helped bolster me, too. My social life only went so far because my church upbringing got very much in the way--I couldn't go to movies. My friends at school asked me to go and I couldn't go to dances because I wasn't allowed to dance either. So, I was so upset that I couldn't do what everyone else was doing.

IRITANI: When you were in Naperville, your senior year, you were going to a very conservative church, too?

M WAKE: Yes. There was no Free Methodist church, so we went to a Nazarene church. I taught Sunday school and all that, too. I was very popular in school, but I couldn't join them in activities and I was so upset that I couldn't go to the senior prom. But, who's going to ask somebody who doesn't know how to dance, you know? So, I consoled myself with that. I was nominated for some kind of queen, but I didn't get it. [Laughter] It was a happy

M WAKE: year, and I was glad for that. But, first year of college being off campus, I never felt a part of college life except for sports. I was voted outstanding Frosh girls athlete.

I thought I was ready to go to Chicago, the big city, to find a job. I was very artistic, so I went around with my portfolio, all kinds of paintings and drawings, and answered all kinds of ads. One place I remember is Colgate-Palmolive. They wanted somebody to design packaging for their products. [Laughter] And they were so polite. They opened up my portfolio and said, "Oh, these are very nice, but I don't think you're quite what we're looking for." But then there was a job painting Hummel dolls. I enjoyed that, but at the noon break, I said, "I'll be back tomorrow." I wanted to try another job to see if I could make more money. The second job was painting costume jewelry. Painting roses and daisies on metal necklaces and bracelets. They sold at Marshall Fields during the war. The day the war ended, there were no more orders. [Laughter] I was the second Japanese hired there and then we had a whole table full. We must have had twenty Nisei girls working there and had so much fun at work. Two of us were really desperate to work our way through college. We worked the hardest and we earned the most which was a hundred dollars a month. [Laughter] But, that to us was a lot of money. In the meantime, I had started.... I couldn't afford to rent a room and so I worked for families. I worked for one family as a housegirl and everyday I came home from work and

had to help make dinner. They went out every single night so I had to take care of the two children, one of whom was an infant. The five year old wouldn't go to sleep unless I played the piano for her. So, that made me practice the piano although I didn't have any music with me.

IRITANI: So you were at that college one year, two years?

M WAKE: Just one year. And then after that job dwindled down, then I started junior college on the south side, Wilson Junior College.

IRITANI: That's still in Chicago?

M WAKE: Still in Chicago. So, I worked for another family and that family had a teenaged daughter and an elementary school boy. I had to type something, so I borrowed the teenager's typewriter. After that I had to do all her typing for her. And then the typewriter broke down. Her mother made me pay for it. [Laughter] One night the boy had a friend over and they ripped their shower curtain. When their parents came home I heard them blaming me for tearing the shower curtain. The next morning I told her, "You either believe me or I'm leaving today." Of course, they kept me--free babysitting and cleaning. I ate very little. I didn't know where I would go. I didn't eat breakfast. I may have made a sandwich for lunch. They ate a lot of meat and I hated meat so I ate very little for supper. I was no expense for them. I did all their housework and typing for them.

I had heard from childhood from Rev. Arnold Nakajima about Asbury College. He was our junior advisor in the Free

M WAKE: Methodist summer camp. He went to Asbury College and he used to rave about it. How beautiful it was and how much fun it was and everything. And in the meantime, all these people from Poston had gone there who included some of my friends. And so I decided to go there for my last two years of college. I cleaned toilets, scrubbed bathtubs, swept hallways, worked in the bookstore, scraped gum off the dining room floor and polished furniture to work my way through there. My best-paying job was when I taught frosh softball.

IRITANI: Asbury was... the town, the location?

M WAKE: Wilmore, Kentucky. Near Lexington. Asbury was the name of the college. During the summer, my father had changed jobs to Lake Delavan, Wisconsin. It was a resort. And so I cleaned rooms and cleaned toilets again. Picked up so many dozens of condoms on the floor. [Laughter] That was what I did in the morning. I worked during the noon hour as a short order cook, and then during the dinner hour I assisted the salad maker until 11 p.m. I always wished I could be a waitress, but the only Japanese allowed to was the chef's daughter. My father was not the chef during the summer months. He was the chef during the winter months. The Japanese chef's daughter got to work in the dining room as a waitress. So, I continued piano lessons and practiced during the summer, and winter vacations and graduated from Asbury in '48.

IRITANI: Bachelor's degree?

M WAKE: Yes. In psychology because when I first started college at North Central College, I told them, "All my life I wanted to be an elementary school teacher." And they said, "They aren't hiring any Japanese teachers so what's the use of going into education?" And so, they talked me out of it and the only thing that interested me was first sociology and then I thought, "No, that's groups of people." So psychology was the major I chose. And it came in very handy later on. By that time, Lloyd and I were engaged and then we came out for a visit to meet his family.

IRITANI: They were already in Dinuba by then?

M WAKE: Yes. I had to go back to Chicago immediately because I was already late taking the job that I arranged for at the Ellis Community Center which was an Evangelical and Reformed Church sponsored community center.

IRITANI: The what Reformed Church?

M WAKE: Evangelical and Reformed Church. Rev. George Nishimoto ran that center. Again, I couldn't afford to rent a room, so I worked for another family as a housegirl. But, this family, both parents were sociologists and they were writing a book, a sociology text. So, every night they had to go someplace to work on that. I babysat their two children and they were no problem whatsoever. She wanted me to eat with the family and I said, "No, I really feel your family's only together at dinnertime and you need your family time. I'll just eat in the kitchen and I preferred it that way. Finally, I found a good family. They were all three Jewish

M WAKE: families, but this was a well-educated family. That whole summer after I got there [to the Ellis Community Center], the two other staff members went on vacation, George for a month and the program director for a month. So, I did everything they normally did which included running the preschool. I had never worked with preschool kids and I hated it. We had no equipment, nothing. Only a swing set in the back. I had no assistance. We didn't require parents to help; it wasn't a cooperative. It was for working parents. Just taking them on a walk around the block was hairy. During the two months--all summer I was also in charge of the school-age children's program. Once I left a child at the lake. I didn't have any assistants and I had a whole bunch of kids to keep an eye on, you know, just riding the bus. It was quite an experience. My boss said, "Too bad we can't pay you more so you can afford a room so you can help out at night, too." As it was, it was a seven day-a-week job! [Laughter] On Saturdays I made home visitations and published a center newsletter. On Sundays I ran the Sunday School. For one month I planned or arranged worship services. My boss felt that I was very lonesome. I had just started the end of May, but he encouraged me to go join Lloyd. So we decided to get married during his seminary Christmas vacation. I finished everything up and had farewells parties. My father and little brother went with me by train to Los Angeles. Rev. Kashitani and Lloyd's brother-in-law, Rev. Paul Nagano, officiated at the

wedding. Lloyd and I lived in the couples' quarters at BBDS [Berkeley Baptist Divinity School]. At that time Frank Herron Smith [Superintendent of the Pacific Japanese Provisional Conference of the Methodist Church] didn't want Paul Hagiya and Lloyd to go to PSR [Pacific School of Religion] because all the graduates were going into teaching, anything other than pastoral work. He wanted Paul and Lloyd to stay as pastors. So they both went to BBDS.

IRITANI: Berkeley Baptist Divinity School.

M WAKE: Yes. Right. It was a really good school and we enjoyed our time there because there was such a close fellowship with the faculty and with students.

IRITANI: And you lived where then?

M WAKE: Right next door to the school. An old house. We had a little two room place and shared the bathroom with everybody else on the floor.

IRITANI: After you were married, were you at the Berkeley Church?

M WAKE: Yes, the Berkeley United Church. Well, Lloyd had started the previous June and then I came for a year and a half. In the meantime, I found a job at the Buchanan Y [YMCA in Japantown San Francisco], so I commuted there.

IRITANI: Oh, from Berkeley you commuted to San Francisco.

M WAKE: I didn't like that at all because I had to take the bus and then the train and the streetcar. I remember people from Loomis and various other delegations coming to talk Lloyd into going to their

churches. But, I had just worked for Fred Hoshiyama at the Buchanan Y for half a year I think, and I said, "Oh no. I really can't quit on him." And so Lloyd went to PSR for graduate work for a year. He really enjoyed that so he didn't mind. And then, he was assigned to Pine [Methodist Church in San Francisco]. We were there for seventeen years and had all four children while there.

IRITANI: At that time, seventeen years was a long time in the Methodist Church.

M WAKE: There were family reasons for that. The main thing was our second child [Wesley], our oldest son, had developed a five pound tumor on his neck. [The Wake children are Cathy, Wesley, Sandy and Steve.] Wes had to be put in Shriner's Hospital, a wonderful hospital for those who cannot afford a private hospital or even U.C. First, they put him in U.C. hospital for a whole week for testing. That was horrible when he was two. You're supposed to avoid any hospitalizations before the age of five. But, it was difficult for I had other children, so I could barely visit him. It was heart-breaking. When he was four, they removed the five pound tumor, but it was not malignant which was a blessing. But, the main problem was he had an extra bone growing from his neck and it was reaching his skull up on top. He'd get in trouble with the kindergarten and first grade teachers all the time because he couldn't put his head down for rest time.

[End Tape 2, Side A]

[Begin Tape 2, Side B]

IRITANI: We will continue talking about your son. This son's name is...

M WAKE: Wes. They had to remove the extra bone, so they went to work with hammer and chisel for six hours. It had grown to nine inches but they could only remove seven inches of it. Bone always grows some more afterwards. He can move his head only so far to the side, but he had more movement this way, up and down.

IRITANI: How many surgeries did he have to have, then?

M WAKE: He just had two, because one was to remove the five pound tumor and the next was to remove the bone.

IRITANI: You said the bone continues to grow?

M WAKE: Yes. I always worried about all the x-rays he's had, but every year I had to take him back again until he was eighteen.

IRITANI: Does he still have to watch that?

M WAKE: No, it doesn't seem to bother him. He has an ugly scar down his back and he has limited neck movement. I don't know why they had to go down so far. He could have had plastic surgery done on that, but he just didn't want to be bothered. He didn't want to go in the hospital again. [The nurses noticed he was missing from the ward one day. They found him outside, trying to walk home-from 19th to 46th Avenue.]¹⁰

¹⁰Marion Wake added the preceding bracketed material during her review of the draft transcript.

IRITANI: How difficult for a little child.

M WAKE: He was well liked. The younger children's ward got too filled up. The older boys got to choose which of the younger kids could move in with the older boys and Wes was chosen. And then when the 49ers came and visited the patients, Wes' picture was in all the papers.

In the meantime, while the kids were growing up, I was determined to get my teaching credential, and so I finally did from San Francisco State [University]. At that time we had to take a written exam and if we passed that, an oral exam. And I finished number four out of five hundred people. That was the year that one of my Nisei friends took the written exam the same time. I saw her during the break. I asked her how it was going and she didn't answer. The next day she took all her work to her master teacher in Chinatown and went to the Golden Gate Bridge and jumped off.

IRITANI: Oh, no.

M WAKE: That was a sad connection I have to that. All her older brothers that were successful and her parents both had high expectations. Excellence was expected and she thought sure she had failed. As it developed, she hadn't. And the principal was planning to hire her at that school. But anyway, Lloyd wouldn't let me accept a teaching job.

IRITANI: How old were your children when you graduated.

M WAKE: Let's see. They were all in elementary or junior high school. But he said, "Ministers' wives don't work. They help their husbands." But I said, "All your sisters work." He said, "But they're helping their husbands and their businesses." And I said, "But that's so their husbands don't have to pay another worker. She's saving your brother-in-law some money." I couldn't buy shoes for the kids when they needed them on the salary they were paying us. And if we had company and spent money on company, we didn't have money to buy food for the family the rest of the month. And so I said, "I'd like to do substitute teaching." So I did substitute teaching for two years. That was difficult. And then, by that time I was asked to teach at a school for severely disturbed children. Hope Kawashima's sister Esther Milnes, who lives in Fresno now, was the director. She was successful teaching at Langley Porter [Hospital] children's program. They asked her to start the school for severely emotionally disturbed children. She became pregnant and really didn't want to work after she had her child. So, they hired me. I had read about kids like this in textbooks but had never seen one so Esther sent me to Napa and Sonoma and various other schools where there were really severely disturbed kids. I volunteered there for many months so by February when she had to quit, she said, "You're a natural."

IRITANI: Were they all autistic children? Or disturbed?

M WAKE: They were all severely emotionally disturbed, some also autistic. One boy would rub his tongue along a wooden fence and get his tongue full of slivers. At home he threw all his mother's spools of thread down the steps and went up on the roof threatening to jump off. You had to commend these families for keeping their children at home rather than institutionalizing them. So, that's about the best we could do for them. For many of them, it was to give the parents a few hours...

IRITANI: Of respite.

M WAKE: Yes. During the day. [We did have a very creative, therapeutic program for the children. Some improved dramatically in their academics, once we overcame their negativity. We got them into the public schools.]¹¹ The parents were required to help once a week. Here I was going into a situation where I had never had the experience of working with kids this severely disturbed. I'd worked with mentally retarded children, but they're pretty complacent in comparison. I had to recruit volunteers for one-to-one everyday from San Francisco State and City College and U.C. [University of California] and U.S.F. [University of San Francisco]. I had a graduate student from U.C. working on a doctorate in nursing. And I had to supervise them when I was just learning on my feet. We had a seminar after school every day and we had two psychiatrist consultants who had helped to

¹¹ Marion Wake added the preceding bracketed material during her review of the draft transcript.

M WAKE: start the school. Anyway, I worked there for ten years. I found out later that the psychiatrist had recommended no more than two years because it could drive you "crazy", but you were also prepared to work with just any child. In the meantime, I was taking graduate work in counseling. I had to quit because by that time I was working with the oldest kids, and the physical abuse of kicking, running about, strain of withholding when they were angry had taken a toll on my body. My new supervisor from downtown came to observe. Afterwards she said, "Marion, your children are so much bigger than you." And so, I had to quit because it ruined my back. I had a back problem to cope with for many, many years after that. That back injury was completely healed, thankfully.

So, I got my master's in counseling. I did a double major both in school counseling from preschool through City College and then got my MFC, my family counseling credential license through the state. One of my assignments to get my MFC [Master in family counseling] was to work at the Sunset Mental Health Center. My supervisor happened to mention that \$100,000 was coming to the City to set up another identical center in the Richmond District which by that time was forty percent Asian American. I could just see the whole staffing all white as Sunset was and the clientele being all white as Sunset was. So, I called every Asian mental health person I knew in the city including the Chinese psychiatrist I worked with at the children's center,

M WAKE: the school for disturbed kids. We organized and finally wrote up a proposal that was accepted. In order to get rid of all the racists on the District 5 community advisory board, we put the people from Delancey Street drug rehab program on buses to vote at the election! These are guys right out of prison, right out of drug rehab and we bussed them out to Temple Methodist Church and outvoted all the racists. That was the only way to do it. It was legal for they were residents of District 5. We got our slate of people on and racists off. That was the highlight of my internship. My secondary internship was at Washington High School. And in the meantime, I got a half time job as a counselor at an elementary school. So, I was finishing my second year. I got a scholarship for that year and \$5.00 a month additionally for each of the kids. For the first time there was a benefit to have four kids! Aiko Odo was my supervisor and she was very helpful. So I worked at Paul Revere School for five years.

IRITANI: Paul Revere?

M WAKE: Elementary school. Then I decided to take a sabbatical. You could get half pay. Boy, did I work for that sabbatical though for half pay. I had never taken time to grieve my mother's death, and had fears of death. And so I decided to work on death and dying. And so from that June, I volunteered for Shanti project. At that time, they worked primarily with cancer patients.

IRITANI: Shanti?

M WAKE: S-H-A-N-T-I. Now, they work with all AIDS patients. But at that time it was all cancer patients. And so, I went through a really intense training with them all summer and then for two years every Monday night we gathered for more training and sharing of our experiences. I also applied for CPE training. Clinical pastoral education. Ministers and seminary students are usually trained, but they let me take the training.

IRITANI: Where was that?

M WAKE: UCSF [University of California, San Francisco medical center]. That was a really great experience in some ways, but a trying one in others, because our supervisor was into Gestalt Therapy and that was a horrible part of that year for two quarters. But, the experience in the hospital was wonderful. I really appreciated the chance to work with cancer and kidney transfer patients and pediatrics. With a little I.D. badge, we could get in anywhere and I watched many operations going on. I watched a mother, one of her kidneys going into her son and then to the point of his urinating. I watched a brain surgery that was unsuccessful and I had to go and talk to the young woman later. We got into trouble with our trainer when the woman seminary student trainee and I baptized a dead baby at the request of her mother. That was such a great experience in many ways.

My last job was at Redding Elementary School the Japanese kids had gone before the war. I was working with all the refugee children from southeast Asia and what I call the hard-core,

tenderloin families. Mothers are drug addicts and prostitutes and so forth. One of my second graders said her mother chased her out of their room every night. Amber talked with the men in the minipark and shared candy they had given her with me the next morning.

IRITANI: These children--Redding is an elementary school? And the children that were coming to see you?

M WAKE: The teachers were most likely to send me behavior problems but also learning problems because I was responsible for getting them tracked for special ed. Some of them didn't belong in a public school and I got them into other more appropriate programs. In the meantime, I did play therapy, art therapy and family therapy with them. So, the teachers really appreciated me because I got--kids that were really impossible, that they shouldn't be expected to cope with--out of their classrooms so they could work with the other children more effectively.

IRITANI: So, there were programs for these problem children at that time?

M WAKE: Yes. But, you had to be very aggressive about finding those and getting them placed and getting all the paper work done. I was able to do all those things and knew how to do it. After I left, the teachers used to ask, "Dr. So and so was supposed to take your place." I said, "Well, I don't know what happened after I left." They said, "Well he wasn't doing anything you used to do." So, you know, it takes a lot of aggressive planning and working. Just getting parents' signatures and getting them to attend conferences

M WAKE: was a problem. And the principal really appreciated me because I made home visits to all these crowded, often filthy tenderloin homes and along Polk Gulch. You see all these stores along Polk Street, but upstairs there are prostitutes and other horrible situations.

I was asked to work with a young married couples group (mostly Sansei from Pine Church) and an older married couples (Nisei) group from Berkeley United [Methodist Church]. I always had Lloyd help me because the men could identify with him more. But, all the workshops we do, I do the planning, and I assign Lloyd his part. We advertise it as Lloyd and Marion Wake so that the men would be willing to come out. I worked for a year at the Japanese Family Service Program somewhere in between there. I was hired as a Nisei counselor, so I did an informal survey of all the community leaders and community people. The biggest concern was adjustment to retirement. So, it is now called Nikkei in Retirement. We had our 25th anniversary celebration in 2000. They credit me for starting it, but I called the first community meeting after gathering all those responses to the survey. They asked me to do workshops on various areas of concern. It was kind of bunched up into financial concerns, recreational and psychological concerns, and health problems. They still kind of revolve around those areas and have expanded it to other areas.

M WAKE: Then, because of my experience in training in death counseling and counseling survivors, I did a retreat for Lake Park [United Methodist, Oakland] Church on death, dying and resurrection. And for various other community groups, we've done death and dying workshops. Recently, Aldersgate [United Methodist Church, Palo Alto] asked us to do a series of workshops on homosexuality. Some of the church members threatened to leave if Gail [Messner, the pastor] did it. So, she asked us to do it. So, again, I planned the whole thing and made assignments. We had Alpha Takagi's son come down because Alpha had been a pastor there. And Jimmy really wanted to do it. His sister Joyce and her husband were visiting and so they came down. Lloyd tried to get her to talk about how it was as a sister to have a gay brother. They became concerned when he wanted to wear dresses, but Mary and Alpha never made a fuss about it, and just let him do it. And you know that Nobu Hanaoka's daughter has come out also. For a parent's participation, we asked Elsie Chung. I don't know if you read her article in the *Hokubei* [*Mainichi* newspaper]. She tells of how her son let her know he was gay, and the adjustments she had to make as a mother.

I have problems with my knee, so can't walk or drive. In order to make this a tax-free facility, we all report our volunteer hours every month. I report all the hours that I spend on reading. I'm a reader/reviewer for a human rights organization. We award the best books written about human rights the

previous year on Human Rights Day. I read about one hundred books annually.

IRITANI: You were talking about the books. What was this organization called?

M WAKE: It's called the Gustavus Myers Human Rights Center, located at Boston University.

IRITANI: How long have you been doing this?

M WAKE: I think this is my fourth year.

IRITANI: For the whole year?

M WAKE: Yes.

IRITANI: And they send you the books?

M WAKE: Some of them. I have to find the rest. I have trouble because very few of the libraries are handicapped accessible. So even if Lloyd drives me, I can only go to the ones that I can get up to on a wheel chair or walker. So, I'm really limited to about three libraries. My local library is very white and they never have books on civil rights, human rights, so forth. Nothing, ever! I've always been so independent of Lloyd. It's hard for both of us because I have to have him drive me everywhere. While I was able to drive, I would at least be able to drive to the library and go to the ones that I could get up to by elevator or if it were on the ground floor. When my director gets the books nominated by the publishers, she sends a list out to us and we get to choose from those books. We get to keep those books. But, she only lets us choose two or three out of the whole long list. She says the

M WAKE: reviewers are all ages from college age through and I think I'm the oldest one.

Two evenings a week I tutor a student who started with me, I think five or six years ago. He's going to the Japanese bilingual program. I became discouraged with that program because they allowed him to speak Japanese and teachers would instead of replying in English, reply in Japanese. At home he was required to speak Japanese. Saturdays all day he went to Japanese language school. And so the only person he spoke English to was me two nights a week. But since starting junior high, he had to use more English.

IRITANI: So, he's in a different program now in public school?

M WAKE: Well, he's still in a kind of a special ESL [English as a Second Language] program, but he's trying to work himself out of it. He's doing pretty well, grade-wise. His sister is at UC Davis and his brother plans to go to college. He's hoping to go to college, so he wants to get out of this ESL track. Then, after he's gone home, every evening I go over and work on my flower arrangements.

IRITANI: How long have you taken [flower arrangement lessons]?

M WAKE: About five years. I was almost ready to get my first teaching certificate. And then I could no longer climb the steps to get up to lessons. So, I had to give up. I thought that after this third operation certainly I'd be walking by now, easily. But, there's no prospect of it and my other knee has gotten really bad. I'm not

going to have surgery on that because these three surgeries have left me in worse shape than when I was to begin with.

IRITANI: So you do your flower arrangements. Which school?

M WAKE: Sogetsu.

IRITANI: And you do your flower arrangements daily?

M WAKE: Yes. I work on them daily to fix them up. They keep that building so hot, I have to keep replacing the flowers and redoing. They only give me \$40.00 a month. For Easter I bought lilies for \$25.00 so there wasn't much left for the rest of the month. That's about it. And then after that I go downstairs and practice piano.

[End Tape 2, Side B]

[Begin Tape 3, Side A]

IRITANI: This is the oral history interview with Marion Wake and she has shared a lot of great experiences some very sad, some very enlightening, especially teaching and counselling areas.

Would you like to share a little about your children and grandchildren now? And whatever you like.

M WAKE: We were very lucky. We had a girl first and then a boy.

IRITANI: Could you name them as you...

M WAKE: Oh, yes. Girl, Cathy and a boy Wes and a girl Sandy and a boy Steve. You wouldn't know they'd come from the same parents. I guess many parents say this, but they're four absolutely different individuals. Cathy has always done well academically and she worked her way through state college, because that was the most convenient, and then got into the Ph.D program in microbiology

at UC Berkeley. By then she had had a change in personality. She had been a very shy child all her childhood and adolescence. Evidently the graduate students immediately start teaching the undergraduates' microbiology classes, which brought out the best in her. She loved the teaching part, but found out even with a Ph.D. she'd never be able to do her own research and she'd always have to do somebody else's research for some reason, I guess for many, many, many years.

IRITANI: The lead professor gets the work.

M WAKE: She decided anyway that she didn't want to work in a laboratory all the rest of her life and she wanted to work with people. So, then she decided to go to nursing school. At that time only, and it may have been just that year that UC was not allowing anyone to have two master's degrees. So, since she had gotten enough credits for a master's degree in microbiology and they wouldn't let her go for a master's degree in nursing. So she had to go to Hayward State Nursing School. Then she worked two years and then by that time when she applied for UCSF [University of California Medical School at San Francisco], nurse practitioner program, she was allowed in. And so she finished that much to her husband Reynaldo's credit, for she had three children by then. She now runs some kind of special project at Children's Hospital in Oakland. Her eldest is at St. Mary's College, the daughter is in high school and the younger son in middle school.

M WAKE: Wes has no children. He has lived with a wonderful woman, Jan, for many, many years who had four boys and their father became a gambler-holic. He was the chairperson of a math department at some university back east. But, somehow or other he started gambling. She lived a wonderful life of a professor's wife, wife of the chair of the department, and so forth, and with four brilliant children. However, their father wasn't even providing for the family. So, she joined the gambler-holics anonymous support group and they encouraged her to leave him. So she came with the four kids to San Francisco, and Wes was trying to help her. It developed into a love relationship. He helped her with the boys and she kept saying, "I'd be happy to have a child for you." And he said, "No, no. You've had enough of child-rearing." They are still in Willits, a hundred miles north and is very busy--he had three businesses for the longest time. He started a restaurant because Sandy moved up there after her divorce. She moved up there with her three little children. He wanted to provide work for her and she was an excellent cook. So, she started the Tsunami Restaurant. She ran that for almost ten years. It was the only good restaurant for the community, so people still miss it. In the meantime, Wes also was running a refrigeration and air conditioning business. That's what he does, most of the time now with several employees. His first love is fishing. And so, he still goes salmon fishing whenever he can. He was really motivated because he caught salmon for the

M WAKE: restaurant. Now, he has leased the place to somebody else because Sandy burned out.

Sandy then worked with Community College District, Willits office. And she loved her job. There were many transferable skills. She teaches sushi workshops occasionally. She had taught all her white restaurant staff how to make sushi and how to cook Japanese food. [Her eldest son works with severely disturbed children. The next son will graduate from Sonoma State majoring in Economics. The daughter is in art school in Long Beach, excited about what she will be doing. Sandy is in college full-time preparing to be a teacher.]¹²

Then that brings us to Steve. Steve went to UC Berkeley right after graduating from Lowell [High School]. He was in the gifted program, and majored in physics at UC Berkeley. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and was accepted into medical school. But, that summer, after graduating, he decided to go the Philippines on a student program under the Methodist Church and saw what [Ferdinand] Marcos was doing there and got talked into by his friends to go to Washington, D. C. to be the volunteer coordinator of the Friends of the Filipino People. I was so disappointed because Steve came home in the middle of Medical School orientation week. I said, "What are you doing at home?" And he said, "Well, they're just going to teach me how to connect

¹² Marion Wake added the preceding bracketed material during her review of the draft transcript.

M WAKE: bodies to machines." So, he hitchhiked to Washington, D. C. and took this volunteer job. He later organized marches in Washington, D. C. and New York City. For two years he was out there and I kept writing and saying you have so many talents and abilities and here you're barely surviving. Can't you on the side be taking some kind of classes? And he said, "Just get it through your head that I'm going to be a political activist the rest of my life." Well, he came home after three years, to Berkeley. In the meantime, in order to have a vehicle to run around in, he had bought an old, old van. In order to repair it, he had to telephone Wes for information because Wes had much experience in repairing cars. And so, then when he came to Berkeley, he repaired cars for a while. Then he started living with Barbara when she became pregnant with a child and he had to get some kind of hospital insurance. Everybody said, "Work for the Post Office. They have the best health insurance and benefits." And so he did and worked for the repair department emergency-servicing vehicles that had broken down on the route. He worked himself up to the head of that department. They found out he was a science major and they needed somebody to take care of the environmental requirements, and so they sent him back to UC to take more courses to run their environmental program. But, he was so young in comparison to all the people he was supervising, and they were reluctant to change their ways. And so he decided to move back to the supervisor of the parts

M WAKE: department. I'm sure that all along he wanted to go back to medical school. And I'm sure Barbara didn't discourage him because she is a P.A., physician's assistant, and understood his wishes. So, he took the medical exams and did even better than he did the first time--almost perfect scores in every area. But, his age. It would mean that U.C. was going to be paying for all these years of training and he would only give back to the community a few years. And because of the family he applied only to UCSF and UC Davis, and he wasn't accepted by either of those. So, he had to give that up, but he kept missing working in science. When he really got interested in science was in junior high school, so he really wanted to teach science in junior high school. But when he looked into the pay, he felt he couldn't support his family. Recently, he decided that he and Barbara saved enough money for the two children for college. I don't know how they managed to do that. Steve had worked his way through college doing house painting and carpentry work. He's very accurate and does a very neat job. He's renovated one house and sold it. He bought another place and did major work on it. He is now a science teacher at Berkeley High.

[Discussions deleted.]

Barbara's oldest daughter has graduated from college and is working. Their next daughter is now at U.C. Santa Cruz, and the youngest is in high school.

They're all four good kids and nine great grandchildren.

IRITANI: All independent thinkers. Steve never went back to the political activism?

M WAKE: No, not really. He worked with the American Indians who live on the floor of Grand Canyon for awhile. Their drinking water had been polluted by radioactivity. But, once he started having the children he didn't have time to keep in touch.

IRITANI: He had a priority.

M WAKE: His heart is still at a different place, but right now trying to get his kids through college and trying to satisfy the craving for doing something in science have taken priority. It's too bad that those two years, he gave up. He's never said that he regretted it.

IRITANI: No. That was still his choice. And it was a positive act on his part.

M WAKE: I feel that all four of our kids have incorporated our philosophy of life. That that's what we're here for. I remember reading Steve's application for UC that the reason God has put upon this earth is to serve others. I didn't realize.

IRITANI: That's lovely.

M WAKE: I guess that's what our lives have been. My last job, I really did lose my health because I worked so hard. I was full-time counselor and that was full-time work. But, then the funds ran out, so I had to become half-time counselor, half-time program resource teacher. And then I had written an application for a San Francisco education grant for doing a multicultural program. Our school was mostly Chinese. Mostly refugees, but they were

M WAKE: very racist toward the blacks, the whites, the Arabs, and Indians and all the other minorities. And so, I highlighted each of those minorities, two of them each month and worked out a program and of visual aids, speakers, library books. It was only \$1,000.00. So, I was wearing three hats. As program resource teacher I was responsible for providing training, not only for all the student assistants, but the teachers, too; [writing an annual proposal for funds; planning the budget and seeing that we complied with all the requirements for federal and state funding.]¹³

I worked for the school district twenty years. which wasn't very much. I never dated anyone but a ministerial student or a minister. but, I was not really happy as a minister's wife. I felt I was taken advantage of, too many demands made of me. Too many expectations. But I did my best. I got a lot of opposition from Lloyd when going back to school, working. But, when the paycheck started coming, he realized it was a necessity. We wouldn't be able to be here in this life care facility if I didn't have my retirement check.

IRITANI: So, now it's tough with your physical disability. You're limited in what you can do now.

M WAKE: Yes. It's discouraging. I can't ever let it get me down. I can't allow that to happen. I'm just making the best of it by continuing my volunteer work. I really enjoy reading all these books about

¹³Marion Wake added the preceding bracketed material during her review of the draft transcript.

M WAKE: any kind of women, children, minorities, prisoners, anybody who's not treated fairly. And recommending, and I'm really proud when my recommendations win an award. I had to talk my director into recognizing racism of Asian Americans because he said, "Well, all my black reader/reviewers claim that nobody else experienced slavery. You shouldn't be worrying about racism among Asian Americans." But, I think I finally convinced him. And so, we've been able to get Asian American authors awarded. I don't think we have many Hispanic reviewers. No American Indian reviewers and therefore no. . .

IRITANI: No books.

M WAKE: Though I've been able to recommend a few, I'm on the lookout.... This is for Canada, United States and Central America. I found some good books on the Aleuts and really excellent. I'd like to get books for minorities in Canada, but so far, have been largely unsuccessful.

IRITANI: Yes, there are minorities in every geographical location who are down-trodden. I think we will close with that. And thank you very, very much, Marion.

M WAKE: Thank you for your time.

IRITANI: And with that, I'll close this interview.

[End Tape 3, Side A]

[End of Interview]

MARION YAMABE WAKE NAMES LIST

NAME	IDENTIFICATION	SOURCE OF VERIFICATION	PAGE INTRODUCED
Lloyd Wake	Husband of Marion Wake, interviewed earlier	Joanne Iritani	1
Umeshichi (Okada) Yamabe	Father	Marion Wake	1
Toku Yamada Yamabe	Mother	"	3
Cecil B. De Mille	Film director	"	5
Jack Yamabe	Older brother	"	7
Bobby Yamabe	Younger brother	"	7
Gibbons	Film director	"	8
Rev. Baba	A minister	"	11
Rev. Kashitani	Pastor of family's church	"	13
Rev. Mas Toyotome	A minister	"	17
Rev. Harper Sakauye	A minister	"	23
Rev. Arnold Nakajima	A minister	"	30
Rev. George Nishimoto	Director of Ellis Community Center	"	32
Rev. Paul's Nagano	Lloyd's brother-in-law	"	33
Dr. Frank Herron Smith	Superintendent of the Pacific Japanese Provisional Conference	"	34
Fred Hoshiyama	Director of Buchanan YMCA	"	35
Wesley Wake	Second child	"	35
Cathy	Oldest child	"	35
Sandy	Third child	"	35
Steve	Fourth child	"	35
Esther Milnes	Founder of school for School for severely disturbed children	"	38

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NAME	IDENTIFICATION	SOURCE OF VERIFICATION	PAGE INTRODUCED
Aiko Odo	Supervisor of work	"	41
Gail Messner	Pastor at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Palo Alto	Marion Wake	45
Jimmy Takagi	Son of Alpha and Mary Takagi Alpha was former pastor at Aldersgate UMC	"	45
Nobu Hanaoka	Pastor of Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church	"	45
Elsie Chung	Parent of a gay child	"	45
Reynaldo	Husband of daughter Cathy	"	49
Jan	Partner of son Wes	"	50
Ferdinand Marcos	Former President of the Philippines	Random House Webster's Dictionary	51
Barbara	Wife of son Steve	Marion Wake	52